SUPPLEMENT TO

THE BOMBAY GAZETTE

BOMBAY:—MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1876.

TURKISH AFFAIRS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, 30TH NOV.

THE public mind is in sore perplexity just now to discern the true signs of the times. On the one hand, the bellicose feeling prevailing as well as the active preparations for a great struggle bear evidence of an approaching crisis; on the other, the official correspondence exchanged between Lord Derby and the Russian Chancellor revert so often to the wish of all parties to keep the peace and to maintain the concert of European Powers, that it almost seems impossible so amiable a state of things should be disturbed for the sake of a *pariah* like Turkey.

The feeling of encouragement, created among the Turks by Lord Beaconsfield's speech, has been considerably modified by the tenor of Lord Derby's subsequent despatches, as well as by the tone of some of the English Press. The latter especially have of late assumed a tone which excites in the Turks grave misgivings lest England should have become inoculated with the aggressive views of Russia. When it first became known that the British fleet and British troops would ensure the safety of Constantinople against a Russian attack, the Turks did not doubt but that their faithful allies were coming once more to fight their battles for them, and they were eager to welcome their arrival and fall in with British views.

They were, however, soon given to understand that England had no interests to defend on the other side of the Balkans; therefore, that if Russia did not extend her operations southwards, England would limit her participation in the struggle to the occupying of Constantinople! In the sense it is now understood, this occupation does not smell sweet in the nostrils of the Turks, but for their trust in English justice and honesty, and their latent hope that England will in the end prove their friend, the occupation of their capital by British forces does not recommend itself any more now than did the proposal made by the Czar, two months ago, to occupy their provinces. Passages such as the following published in the local semi-official journal, and said to be translated from leading English papers, cannot but excite the deepest anxiety to the Porte. After enumerating the various measures of defence about to be adopted by England for the safety of Constantinople—without once referring to any combined action with the masters of the soil—it says:—"England will hold Constantinople in pledge in the name of the other Powers; as soon, however, as a neutral Power will have been established on the Bosphorus, or that Europe has agreed upon any other arrangement, she will at once recall her troops." This reading of the real meaning of British occupation—if correct—is no doubt a sad awakening to the Ottomans from their dream of an English alliance, and smarting under the feeling of bitter disappointment and uncertain whom to trust, it will not surprise any one here if the Porte elects as the lesser evil, to come to some compromise with Russia, which, by averting the impending war, will spare the Turks the humiliation of a foreign occupation of their capital, the duration of which is ominously made dependent on the fulfilment of contingencies over which they will apparently have no control. Under the circumstances above stated it is not to be wondered that the Turks look forward with apprehension to the Conference, uncertain whether the assemblage of distinguished diplomatists who are to compose it come as friends, or whether they are to sit in judgment on them. Nor is General Ignatieff likely to neglect this opportunity of turning into account the new-born fear of the Turk for the English, to bully or persuade them to place themselves once more under the direction of his friendly Councils. There are others again among the Turks who, believing in the incurable nature of the Sick Man's malady, and anxious to escape, at no distant future, being absorbed peicemeal by Russia would accept with secret satisfaction the protectorate of a great and enlightened nation like England, a connection with whom would bring balm and healing to all their wounds, whose free institutions would infuse new life into the country and whose wealth would stimulate the development of the immense resources of the Empire. In illustration of the existence of this feeling, I will quote what I was told not many weeks ago by a man in close relation with men in office. He said that if England had kept up the boundless influence she had acquired over Turkey after the Crimean War, she might by this time have made of this country a second India; to arrive, however, at this result she should have entrusted her interests in Turkey to able diplomatists ever watchful to check the growing influence of Russia and skilful enough to cope with General Ignatieff.

Count Chandordy, the French representative to the Conference, arrived yesterday. Lord Salisbury is expected in a day or two.

Preliminary sittings will be held at the Russian Embassy by right of General Ignatieff's priority as senior Ambassador to the Porte.

Abdul Kerim Pasha and his Generals have returned to Constantinople for a short holiday; their countrymen had intended to receive them with great honours, but they arrived at night, and unfortunately no preparations had been made for a night reception, so the Generals were content to accept the will for the deed. Better luck befell the volunteer corps of Softas, who were enrolled in the spring through the exertions of two of their ecclesiastical professors, Selim Effendi and Shukri Effendi. They had been formed into a brigade 800 strong, and have done good service in the battles before Alexinatz. A large body of the Ulema, accompanied by Softa students, and preceded by regimental bands and a guard of honour, met the brigade on their landing. They were marshalled in military order and marched through the town, stopping at the Porte at the residence of the Sheik-ul-Islam and at the Seraskeriat, to receive severally the congratulations of the Grand Vizier, the blessing of the head of the Church and a flattering address in recognition of their services in the field from Abdool Kerim Pasha. After offering a thanksgiving prayer at the Mausoleum of Sultan Katib, the spot where they had been enrolled, they formally laid aside their weapons of warfare and resumed their students' avocations. The remnant of the Egyptian contingent is also on its way back; these poor fellows have undergone severe suffering from the inclemency of the climate. As far back as two months ago, cold and exposure had begun their work of destruction, and the necessity of removing them to a warmer climate had been strongly urged.

Admiral Drummond is still here completing his arrangements respective of the plans of defence proposed for securing Constantinople against an attack; he is also said to have made arrangements for the accommodation of the troops. He has been presented to the Sultan by Sir H. Elliott. Several distinguished Royal Engineers have started on a tour of inspection for Asia Minor and European Turkey.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS ON THE EFFECT OF THE CYCLONE AND STORM-WAVE IN THE SUNDEEP GROUP OF ISLANDS ON 31ST OCTOBER 1876.

WE published on Thursday a telegraphic summary: we now publish the full text of the Minute by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, dated the 15th December 1876:—

The description of the storm-wave in Backergunge and Noacolly, and its effects, as given in my Minute of the 21st ultimo, referred more particularly to Noacolly proper, to Hattea, and to the Backergunge district, but not so much to the Sundeep group of islands (belonging to Noacolly) which I had not been able to inspect personally. On the 19th of November I deputed Mr. F. H. Pellew, of the Civil Service, to the Sundeep group of islands, he being an officer specially experienced in relief operations elsewhere, and also having formerly served in Eastern Bengal. He has now returned from his deputation, and I wish to record briefly my impressions regarding the Sundeep group of islands after conferring with him.

2. The Sundeep islands differ in some respects from those of the other islands which I described in my Minute of the 21st ultimo. Being of older formation, the ground in Sundeep proper is somewhat higher towards the centre. The habitations, instead of being scattered in little hamlets, are towards the centre collected into large villages well protected by trees, and (what was very important) having large tanks with high banks round them. Consequently, although towards the shores of the islands the people were swept off exactly in the manner I previously described, yet towards the middle they for the most part escaped, as the wave was not relatively quite so high, and the trees were more efficiently protective, apparently checking the rapidity of the wave, and allowing the poor people a few minutes of time, during which they crowded on to the banks of the tanks, and so kept their heads above water. On the outer villages towards the shores the mortality was quite as sad as anything that has been reported. In the inland villages it was fortunately less.

3. On the other hand, the storm-waves here came from the south, that is from seawards, and receding left the tanks and other drinking water brackish (instead of being fresh, as was happily the case in Hattea and in Backergunge), and caused the stagnant water, remaining after the wave had passed, to be fœtid. Thus cholera set in soon after the first disaster. Then on the 23rd November there came a storm of wind and rain (the ghost, as it is called, of the cyclone), suddenly lowering the temperature of the atmosphere and sorely chilling the houseless people. This fresh misfortune aggravated the choleraic plague. Thus Mr. Pellew found the people in a state of deep depression. It seemed as if the survivors of the cyclone-wave would slowly perish by pestilence. Every arrangement which forethought could suggest had been begun by the local authorities, and has been carried out further by Mr. Pellew. Native medical officers with medicines have been stationed at appropriate places. Additional Assistant Surgeons have been despatched from Calcutta. The Sanitary Commissioner, Dr. Coates, was deputed to Chittagong during November; he is already at work on these islands. The cholera is abating in the north part of the slands, but is still bad in the south, and there is no knowing when it will cease there. Wherever the cholera has abated, there the people are rebuilding their houses, and rehabilitating themselves altogether. They have supplies of food, also a fair crop on the ground; but the reaping and harvesting is delayed, because the cultivators are tending their sick and burying their dead. In one part of the island there is a Government estate; in another part an estate under the Court of Wards. There will be no difficulty in making advances to distressed cultivators. These will be needed, as the destruction of the cattle was almost total and absolute. The plundering and other attempts at mischief have been stopped.

4. The estimate now given of mortality in the Sundeep group of islands differs somewhat from that given in my Minute of the 21st November. Out of a population of 87,000, I understood that 40,000 had perished in the catastrophe. Mr. Pellew makes out that not more than 25,000 perished at first, but that several thousands have since died from the effects of the catastrophe, and some thousands are still dying. He fears that, before this sad affair is ended, the mortality will fully equal the higher estimate of 40,000.

5, I here cite a few remarkable facts extracted from Mr. Pellew's notes:—

"The people in the villages on the south-western coast stated that the inundation commenced with a wave at least six feet high, which burst over the land from the south-east. Very shortly after another wave, six feet higher, came from the south-west. These waves came suddenly, just like the bore, mounting up and curling over. The second wave is described as lifting the roofs of the houses, and whirling the

contents—human beings with furniture, &c.—violently outside. The mat walls with their wooden posts were swept away, the latter being either broken off short, or wrested out of the ground. All this was done suddenly; people described it to me as occurring in one second of time. Behind each wave the water did not fall again, but remained, so that after the second wave there was twelve feet of water over the land.

"In the centre of the island the water came up less suddenly. The Government Pleader at Hurrishpore was taking refuge from the storm in his new cutcherry. Suddenly an alarm was raised that the water was coming. He got on the wooden dais, but the water immediately covered this. He then went, up to his neck in water, along a raised path, to the bank of his tank, which is about 12 feet high; he told me that the rising of the water did not take longer than two minutes from first to last, and that he was only just in time. The bank of the tank was not more than 10 yards from his cutcherry. I saw the place myself. This was in Hurrishpore, the most central village.

"In the village of Nyamustee one man was the sole survivor of 13; 4 men were the survivors of a household of 25. The women have perished in immense numbers. Most of the men who remain are wifeless.

"In Kangalee Chur (an island of Sundeep) the Sub-Inspector found nothing but two wild buffaloes alive, and the corpses of men, cows, and buffaloes.

"In Chur Moolavee, out of 177 people, 137 died.

"In some villages along the west coast of Sundeep, out of a population of 2,460 people, 734 were drowned."

6. As regards cholera, Mr. Pellew writes—

"The mortality generally in South Sundeep threatens to exceed the mortality from the inundation. The returns of 33 beats (with a population of 10,855 souls) give the deaths by drowning as 1,063, whereas those from cholera in the same tract have already amounted to 764.

"In Gachooa 111 people have died in a population of 1,033. In Dublaphar 83 have died in a population of 236. In Amanulla 84 have died in a population of 692. The greatest mortality from cholera is in the central portions of the islands, where the mortality from the inundation was comparatively trifling."

7. Mr. Pellew expresses himself as unable to suggest any protective works as against storm-waves in future. The old embankments round parts of the island which did exist only made matters worse on this occasion.

8. The thanks of Government are due to Mr. Pellew (who very properly volunteered for the duty) for his exertions in this sadly important case. I am sure that his visit and inspection must have been of great service to the suffering people. He makes a very favourable report regarding the exertions (under trying circumstances) of Baboo Umakanth Doss, Deputy Magistrate, whose services will be duly remembered by me.

RICHARD TEMPLE.

RAILWAY CONFERENCE, 1877.

THE following notification has been issued by Captain C. Pye, the Secretary to the Railway Conference:—

The Railway Conference will assemble at Calcutta on 6th February 1877. The place of meeting will be notified hereafter.

All persons who are interested in Railway affairs as well as those who are directly connected with Railway administration, and who desire to submit papers on any question which falls within the scope of the Conference, are requested to communicate with the Secretary.

As it is desirable that important papers should be printed and placed in the hands of the members of the Conference before they meet, early notice is requested.

Where this is impracticable, opportunity will, if possible, be afforded to persons who desire to express their views on such questions *viva voce*, provided that due notice of their intention and an outline of their proposals are forwarded at an early date to the Secretary, who will, in reply, explain the action to be taken in the subject in compliance with the desire of the Chairman of the section to which it refers.

All communications should be addressed to the Secretary to the Railway Conference, Calcutta.

THE MANUFACTURE OF GLASS IN BOMBAY.

A COMPANY is being formed in Bombay for manufacturing glass. The capital is only one lac of rupees, and the shares are Rs. 500 each; but the successful working of the company will be the means of introducing a new and very important industry into this country. Bombay will not only take the lead in introducing a new industry but there are facilities and opportunities ready at hand in the immediate vicinity of Bombay for carrying, on the manufacture of glass on advantageous terms. As the wealth and civilization of the people increases the demand for ornamental and useful articles becomes annually greater. In the trade returns of India the value of glassware is put down at fifty lacs, of which fifteen lacs are retained by Bombay alone. The carriage of glass is, however, attended with heavy loss to importers owing to the unavoidable breakages which occur, and the addition to the cost of the glass goods imported is probably as high as 75 per cent. on the invoice price. With regard to the needful materials for making glass and crockeryware in Bombay, we may quote the following paragraph from the prospectus of the Bombay Glass Manufacturing Co, Limited:—

"A manufactory in India (requiring no expensive machinery nor engineers), can be established fully as cheaply as in Europe, and with 50 per cent. to the good to start with, with Silica of a sufficiently good description, even Fine Quartz, broken glass, and other materials obtainable in this Presidency, easier and cheaper than in Europe, with considerably cheaper native labour, the scheme presents *financial prospects such as other few undertakings can show*, and must prove one of the most *remunerative investments* that have for a long time been offered to the public.

"The manufactory will be established on the model of the best works of the kind in Belgium and Bohemia, and a few experienced workmen will be engaged to start the works and instruct the native hands, and there being little or no machinery nor engineers required, this undertaking, more than most others, can in a few years become quite independent of Europe influences, and a purely native industry."

SEASON REPORTS.

THE following Season Reports for the week ending 13th instant are published for general information:—

Kurrachee.—No change.

Shikarpur.—Rabi crops healthy. Rain on 9th. Cattle disease in five talukas. Fever abating.

Hyderabad.—Rabi sowing completed. Fever continues. Cattle-disease in talukas Tando, Alahyar and Shahadadpur. Small-pox in taluka Hala and Moro; in Hyderabad City 87 fresh cases from 3rd to 9th, ten deaths. Slight rain in taluka Moro.

Upper Sind Frontier.—Weather cold. Rabi sowings progressing; young crops well. Fever and cough prevalent.

Ahmedabad.—Rabi crops well.

Kaira.—Prospects of rabi crops good.

Broach.—Fever continues. Cattle-disease in Hansot.

Surat.—No change.

Khandesh.—No improvement in state of people and crops. No rain.

Nasik.—No change in condition of people or crops.

Tanna.—Rabi crops not in good condition. Cholera in a village in Karjat taluka; fever throughout collectorate, and small-pox in three villages in Wara taluka.

Poona.—No rain. No change in prospects.

Ahmednagar.—No improvement in condition of people and crops. No rain.

Sholapur.—Condition of people as before. No rain. No crops.

Satara.—No improvement in condition of people and crops. Two deaths from cholera.

Belgaum.—No change for worse in condition of people or crops. Cholera has appeared in four talukas.

Dharwar.—Condition and prospects unchanged. Early crops nearly reaped. No rain.

Kanara.—Emigration of men and cattle to Kanara continues.

Kaladgi.—(Report dated 11th).—Distress continues. Public health generally good.

Rajkot.—Wheat and gram thriving. Public health good.

Wadhwan.—Weather and crops good.

Baroda.—No change.

Kolaba.—(Report for the week ending 11th instant)—Rabi crops not good. Public health good.

Ratnagiri.—(Report for the week ending 5th instant).—No rain. Kadva, kulith, and rice being sown.

General Remarks.—Crops good in Sind and Gujarat. Small-pox still prevalent in Hyderabad. No improvement in Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country.

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Gents' Under Pants ..4 to	8	0	Gladstone Bags.....	35	0	Linen Faced Collars doz..	0	12	Briar Root Pipes.....	1	12
Silk Suspenders	2	8	Ladies' Hand Bag	7	8	Linen Faced Cuffs per doz.	1	8	Tobacco Pouches	1	8
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Warm do ..... ,, ..	15	8	Gents' Bags, fitted complete	72	0	Linen Collars .....doz.	6	0	Pockets Knives	2	8
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